

NEWS RELEASE



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State Parks-East Bay Regional Park District Partnership

Wetlands Work Begins at Eastshore State Park

SACRAMENTO/OAKLAND -- Construction is scheduled to begin this week on the Berkeley Meadow Habitat Restoration at Eastshore State Park, a project that will include creation of new wetlands, East Bay Regional Park District and California State Park officials announced today.

The two-part project is a partnership between State Parks and the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), the largest urban park district in the nation.

The park will be closed from August 18, 2004 to February or March 2005 when the restoration is completed.

The EBRPD moved several thousand cubic yards of clean fill dirt to the park last April for this project. Construction of Phase 1 is now set to begin and calls for enhancement of existing wetlands and the creation of new wetlands within a 17-acre area. This \$1.3 million restoration project is funded by Cherokee-Simeon as mitigation for another project. Following the restoration, State Parks will begin construction of nearly \$2 million of trails, fencing and interpretive exhibits.

Eastshore State Park extends 8.5 miles along the East Bay shoreline from the Bay Bridge to Richmond. It includes 2,262 acres of uplands and tidelands along the waterfronts of Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany and Richmond. The state owns the majority of Eastshore State Park and partners with EBRPD to manage the site. The San Francisco Bay Trail will link the entire park when the project is completed.

State Parks and EBRPD plan to enhance and restore a number of ecosystems and habitat types throughout the park. The Berkeley Meadow Habitat Restoration is one such project that will improve public access and ecological habitats in the Berkeley Meadow.

The tidelands comprise rich tidal marshes, sub tidal areas and mudflats that extend bayward from the shoreline, including the Emeryville Crescent, Albany Mudflat and Hoffman

Marsh. Most of the existing upland area is the result of fill placed in the Bay, west of the historic shoreline. The shoreline reflects the unique influences of both natural systems and human intervention.

As described in the Eastshore State Park General Plan, trails will be provided through and around the Meadow. However, no dogs will be allowed on the interior trails due to the sensitive wildlife habitat. Off-leash dog access is permitted at Cesar Chavez Park and at Point Isabel Regional Shoreline.

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